

The Court Process

If an offender is arrested and charged the matter will proceed through judicial processes.

If the offender pleads guilty:

- You will not have to give evidence in court.

If the offender pleads not guilty:

- You will have to give evidence in front of a Magistrate and then again in front of a Judge and jury
- You may be cross examined by defence lawyers
- The court process is lengthy and may take time to finalise.

In certain cases the prosecutor can ask the court to allow you to be able to give evidence from behind a screen or via video linkup so you do not see the offender. These measures can assist in supporting you during the court process.

Support Services

Regardless of the option you choose, it is important you take care of your health and wellbeing, including:

- Seeking medical attention to address any injuries, risk of infection or pregnancy
- Seeking counselling and support services to assist in helping you address any issues resulting from the assault.

If you choose to report to police some time in the future it is important to tell the investigator about any support services you have accessed in relation to the assault.

For support call the Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline on freecall 1800 010 120.

Important Numbers

Police officer:

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Station: _____

Phone: _____

Doctor:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Counsellor:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Important Dates

For detailed information on your options visit the Queensland Police Service website at

www.police.qld.gov.au

and click on the Adult Sexual Assault link.

Adult Sexual Assault



Go to www.police.qld.gov.au for more information

A Queensland Police Service Initiative, supporting safer communities



The Queensland Police Service (QPS) acknowledges the impact adult sexual assault and rape has on survivors. As the survivor of adult sexual assault or rape, it is important to understand that you have options.

The QPS has developed a resource package to provide you information on all the options available. This brochure, used in conjunction with the Adult Sexual Assault link on the QPS website www.police.qld.gov.au provides information about these options, including:

- Reporting to police
- Alternative Reporting Options (ARO)
- Myths and facts
- The court process
- Support services.

What is rape?

- Sexual intercourse without consent, or
- Oral sex without consent.

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is any unwanted or forced sexual act or behaviour without consent. It covers a broad range of sexual activity.

“Without consent” includes consent gained whilst unconscious or under the influence of:

- drugs
- alcohol
- threats
- intimidation.

Reporting Options

Option 1 - Reporting to police

If you are sexually assaulted or raped, do not blame yourself. Call the police immediately. Keep in mind the following points to assist police in preserving and collecting forensic, physical and DNA evidence:

- Do not shower or bathe
- Do not wash or destroy the clothing you wore during the assault
- Do not disturb the physical environment where the assault occurred.

In order to collect evidence police may:

- Take photographs of any injuries
- Perform a forensic examination of semen, clothing and other evidence collected
- Examine the environment where the assault occurred.

Other points to consider:

- You may be asked to consent to a medical examination by a doctor to collect forensic evidence
- You will have to make a detailed statement to police
- Other witnesses will also be asked to provide a detailed statement to police.

The role of the police is to undertake investigations in relation to the sexual assault or rape using the evidence collected. You will be kept informed of the progress of your complaint throughout the police investigation.

Option 2 - Alternative Reporting Options (ARO)

While reporting to police is one option available to you, it is understandable that some people may prefer not to do so for a variety of reasons. There are other options available that may assist in the healing process as a survivor of sexual assault or rape.

ARO is an option where you can provide information to the police about what happened to you, which the police may be able to use to investigate other crimes. The process involves you filling out the details of your assault on a sexual crime survey form, available on the QPS website (www.police.qld.gov.au) under the Adult Sexual Assault link. The information is assessed by police, and could be used to solve other reported offences of a similar nature. This option does not involve courts and you can remain anonymous if you wish.

Option 3 - Unsure?

If you are not sure what you should do, it is recommended that you write down everything you can remember about the sexual assault or rape including:

- What happened
- Where it happened
- Who was there
- Who you told.

Access the Adult Sexual Assault website to find information to help you make an informed decision.

Myths and Facts

M: Rape is committed by strangers.

F: Often the offender is a relative, friend or known to the survivor.

M: Women ‘ask for it’ by the way they dress or behave.

F: Rapists look for targets of opportunity, not women who dress or behave in a particular way. Nobody asks to be hurt or degraded.

M: Only young women are raped.

F: Rape is an act of violence that can happen at any time in a person’s life regardless of gender.